

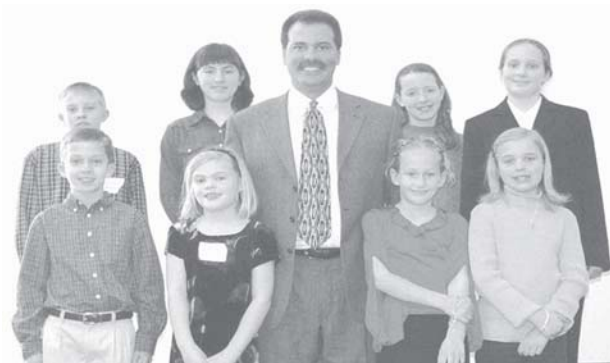
KAEC NOTES

Spring 2004

Kentucky Department of Agriculture • 500 Mero Street, 7th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601
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Essay winners (front row, l-r) Annie Wigginton, Sommer Calvert, Commissioner Farmer, Matt McCarty and Lucas Bragg. (back row, l-r) Summer Pugh, Jordan Hatchett and Ann Moraja. Not pictured, Ben Havener.



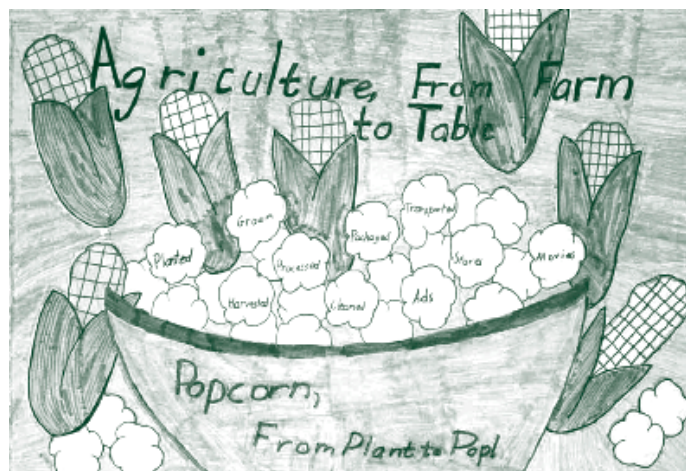
Poster winners (front row, l-r) Joseph Wilson, Anna Alpern, Commissioner Farmer, Koko Sams and Avery Turner. (back row, l-r) David Lee Whelan, Ellen Bravard, Laiken Buechler and oSha Shireman.

Agriculture, From Farm to Table

Agriculture, From Farm to Table was the theme of choice for this year's annual Kentucky Department of Agriculture poster and essay contest.

Poster and essay winners were selected for each grade 1-8 from over 1,100 entries! That many entries made it very tough on the judges to pick only sixteen winners! During a reception held at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort, winners were awarded a \$100 savings bond and recognized as "Agriculture Ambassadors" by Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Richie Farmer. The recipients were also able to see a special History Center drama "Diary of the Depression: A Day in the Life" presented by History Center actress, Annie Denny. Afterwards, the winners were given a private tour of the History Center. Many thanks to all who participated!

The winning entries will be featured on the 2004 Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom calendar, and in other agriculture publications. For a complete list of winners and their winning entries, log on to www.kyagr.com.



Avery Turner's winning poster for 2nd grade, Gamaliel Elementary School, Gamaliel, KY

**Oh, the places
we've been...**



"Tree-mendous!" Jeopardy at EKU



"Perc Through the Pores" at Campbellsville



**Discussion of animal byproducts
at WKU**

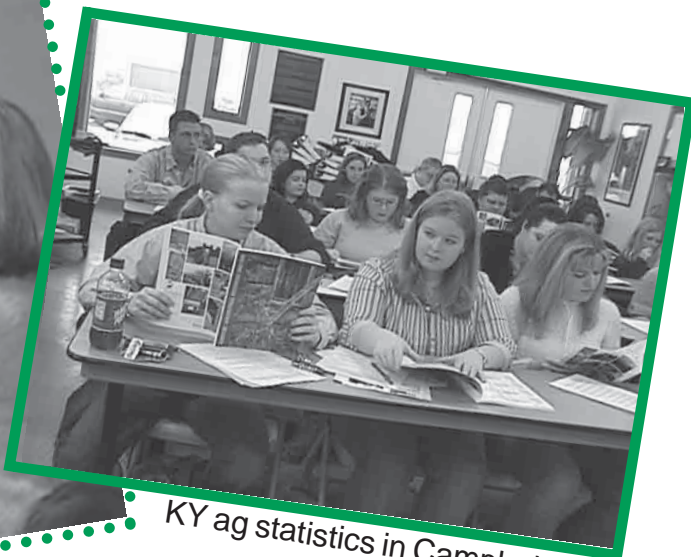


"Fruits and Veggies" at EKU

**the people
we've seen,**



"Step by Step" at U of L

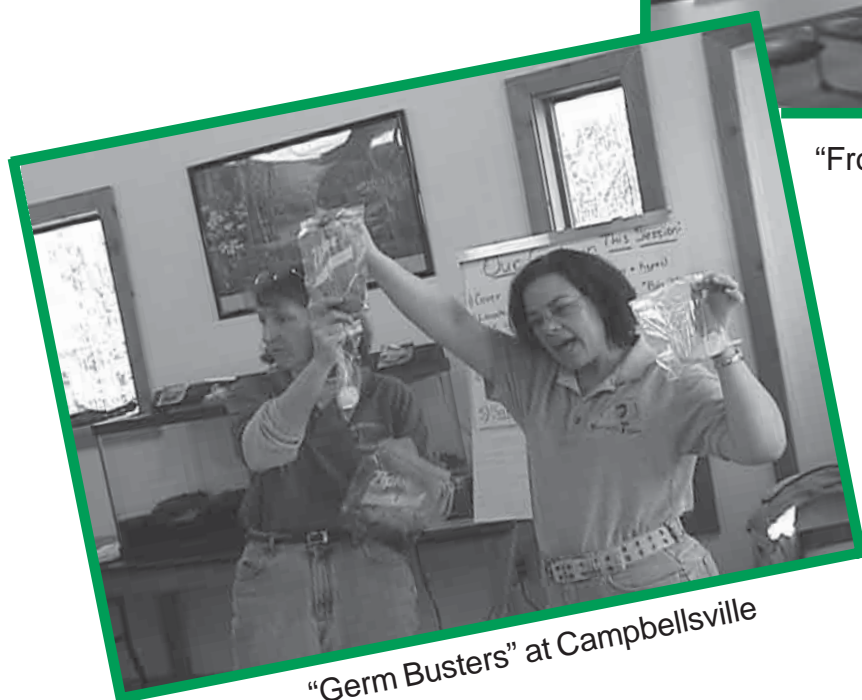


KY ag statistics in Campbellsville

KAEC Scrapbook



"From Fiber to Fashion" at WKU



"Germ Busters" at Campbellsville

**and the things
we've done!**

Earthworm Habitat

Level: Adults and kids 6 and up

Duration: Over an hour

Materials:

- 1 - 64 oz. plastic drink bottle
- utility knife
- soil
- sand
- small rocks
- pebbles
- leaves
- water
- earthworms (available in your garden or at fishing stores)



Procedure:

- 1 Wash and dry the plastic bottle. Cut the plastic bottle in half using the bottom half for your earthworm habitat.
- 2 Layer the bottom of the bottle with small rocks. Add layers of sand and soil alternately until the bottle is nearly full. Moisten the sand and soil with water.
- 3 Lay the earthworms over the soil and cover them with fresh leaves. Put the earthworm habitat in a dark place and keep the soil moist.

Evaluation Options:

- 1 You can plant a small plant or a few grass seeds in your earthworm habitat. The worms will eventually pull the grass and leaves under the soil and eat them, which you'll be able to observe through your bottle.
- 2 Once you have observed the worms at work, place them back into the garden so that they can continue to cultivate the outdoor soil.

Earthworm Facts:

- Worms have no arms, legs or eyes.
- In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms.
- Baby worms hatch from cocoons smaller than a grain of rice.
- Worms can eat their weight each day.



Read those labels!

Soybean oil is the most widely used edible oil in the United States; you can find it in mayonnaise, salad dressing, processed cheese products, dessert frostings and much more!

Kentucky Deaths Relating to Farm Accidents

1995 - 50 deaths (13 were under the age of 16)

1996 – 30 deaths

1997 – 31 deaths

1998 – 28 deaths (KY Dept. of Agriculture began the Farm & Home Safety Program)

1999 – 21 deaths

2000 – 15 deaths (no one under the age of 20)

2001 – 26 deaths

2002 – 25 deaths



- In 1995, 50 people lost their lives in farm-related accidents in Kentucky. Even more tragic, more than one-quarter of those fatalities involved children under 16.
- Since the farm safety program started in Kentucky, there has been a 50% reduction in fatalities relating to farm accidents.
- An average of 5,000 non-fatal farm related injuries are reported annually in Kentucky.
- KDA's Farm and Home Safety Program has conducted safety events in each of Kentucky's 120 counties.
- Safety Programs presented to the public and to school-age audiences include safety with ATVs, tractors, lawn mowers, grain, and livestock, and general safety around the farm and home.

Kentucky Proud



The Kentucky Department of Agriculture continues its marketing and advertising efforts on behalf of Kentucky producers, farmers and growers with a campaign focused on our home-grown suppliers of fruits, vegetables, plants, trees, and more.

Please support the families that have roots here in Kentucky. Go to www.kyagr.com to find a directory and Web sites of Kentucky producers. Be Kentucky Proud. Buy from Kentucky producers.

Have an "Ag in the Classroom" story?

If you have a story about how you use *Project Food, Land & People* lessons in your classroom, we'd love to hear about it. It could be a great inspiration to other teachers to see how you conduct a particular activity and they might try it themselves. Call or e-mail your story and we'll take care of writing the story and even taking pictures. Your story might be included in this newsletter, our department quarterly newspaper *Kentucky Agriculture News*, and on our Web site. We'd love to hear from you! Contact Rayetta Boone by e-mail at rayetta.boone@kyagr.com or Teresa Lauder milk at teresa.laudermilk@kyagr.com or you can reach either by phone at (502) 564-4696.



E-mail Lists Tell What's New for Kids at Science Web Sites

The Agricultural Research Service has now made it easy to know when something new is posted on the agency's popular web sites geared for kids. Kids and teachers can now sign up for e-mail alerts that arrive whenever a new story is posted at *Science for Kids* or its Spanish-language equivalent, *Ciencia Para Ninos*.

The web sites are geared mainly for kids age 8 to 13 and are designed to nurture an interest in science by explaining, often in playful ways, how science affects everyday life and why it can make an interesting career.

In the center of the home page is Dr. Watts, the guide who stands ready to answer questions kids have about agricultural research.

Science for Kids on the Internet at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids>. *Ciencia Para Ninos* is at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/espanol/kids>.

For more information contact Dianne Odland, Agricultural Research Service, by e-mail at DianneOdland@ars.usda.gov; or phone at (301) 504-1633.

Youth Garden Grants

Each year, hundreds of schools and community organizations with child-centered outdoor garden programs receive seeds, tools, garden products, and educational resources generously donated by companies in the lawn and garden industry. Selection criteria include leadership; need; sustainability; community support; innovations; and educational, environmental and/or social programming. Applications for the 2005 cycle will be available at <http://www.nationalgardenmonth.org/educators/projects/projects.php> beginning August 1, 2004. The annual application deadline is November 1.

Organic School Garden Contest

Do you use organic methods in your school garden? If so, you are eligible to enter this contest sponsored by The Rodale Institute. Teams of students and teachers are asked to submit an essay and poster that express how they use their school garden as a learning tool, and what impact it has for the students and community. Three winning schools will receive cash prizes of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. The deadline for submission is October 30, 2004. Go to <http://www.kidsgarden.org/gardens/index.shtml>.

Exploring Insects: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly

Healthy gardens are abuzz with insect activity day and night. While some people may think the only good insect is a dead one, in truth most of these insects are helpful to our plants. Kids are naturally curious about crawling creatures, so all they need is a little guidance to help them appreciate the insects in our gardens. Visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/family.asp> for insect facts, suggestions for exploring insects with kids, directions for making sprays to repel insect pests, and great links and resources for insect adventures.

Thematic Explorations: The Door to A Green Curriculum

A garden or habitat is a living laboratory to learning real-world skills, and this Thematic Explorations Library opens the door to a green curriculum. Looking to boost skills in measuring, calculating, and problem solving? Check out Honing Math Skills in the Garden. If it's social studies that needs a hands-on component, how about Growing Cultural Understanding? Whatever the subject, you'll find compelling stories, ideas, and activities to give your students meaningful learning experiences. For links to all of the themes, go to <http://www.kidsgardening.com/themes/theme-splash.asp>. They're free!

The Yuckiest Site on the Internet

The best place for yucky science experiments. Go to <http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/>.

The Good on Bugs

Invertebrates, a group that includes butterflies, bees, moths, beetles, earthworms, and spiders, may occasionally be an irritation, but for the most part they are an invaluable addition to the garden. More than a quarter of our food is the direct result of a pollinating insect. To learn more about the role gardeners can play in invertebrate conservation, visit the Xerces Society web site at <http://www.xerces.org/>, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting invertebrates. There are articles that can be viewed online, publications available for sale, a number of Web links, plus information about joining the society.

If Americans had recycled the 32 billion soda cans they discarded in 2002, they would have saved 435 thousand tons of aluminum - enough to rebuild the world's entire commercial air fleet more than one and half times.



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KAEC Notes

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Division of Agriculture and Environmental Education

500 Mero Street, 7th Floor

Frankfort, KY 40601

If you have already notified us of your preference, there is no need to contact us again. Thanks!

*Don't
Forget!*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

- 7 - 9 KAEC Workshop
Murray State University
- 17-18 State Envirothon Competition
Jabez

JULY

- 15 - 16 KAEC Workshop
Elizabethtown, Nolin RECC Bldg.
- 29 - 30 KAEC Workshop
Hopkinsville

JUNE

- 4 - 6 KAEC Workshop
Murray State University
- 8-10 FLP Lesson Development
Session
Owensboro
- 18 KAEC Workshop
Union College
- 23 KAEC Workshop
Eastern Kentucky University
- 23 - 26 AITC National Conference
Albuquerque, NM
- 29 - 30 KY Farm Bureau Teacher
Conference Louisville

AUGUST

- 19 - 29 Kentucky State Fair
100th Anniversary

SEPTEMBER

- 3 KAEC Workshop
Western Kentucky University
- 10 - 12 Ky Association for Environmental
Education Conference
Louisville
- 16 Food Farming & Our Environment
Teacher Inservice, Blackacre State
Nature Preserve, Louisville
- 24 - 25 KAEC Workshop
Somerset



Onions contain
a mild antibiotic
that fights
infections,
soothes burns,
tames bee
stings and
relieves the itch
of athletes foot.

KAEC NOTES is a publication of Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom, Inc., P.O.Box 814, Frankfort, KY 40602-0814. For more information on
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